

**WALDO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT SESSION
AUGUST 16, 2017**

PRESENT: Commissioners William D. Shorey (Chairman), Amy R. Fowler and Betty I. Johnson. Also present were Assistant Clerk Lynn Patten and County Clerk Barbara L. Arseneau to take minutes.

Call to Order: Commissioner Shorey called the court session to order at 9:00 a.m.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Present with the Commissioners was Treasurer David Parkman, who reported the following:

The County Checkbook balance is \$41,257.41.

The Jail Checkbook balance is \$608,609.18.

Tax Anticipation Note:

\$2,300,000.00 has been borrowed on the County side.

\$2,050,000.00 has been borrowed on the Jail side.

Total borrowed as of August 8, 2017 is \$4,350,000.00.

D. Parkman explained that they will no longer need to borrow on the TAN for the Jail but will need to continue to borrow for the County. There is only \$150,000.00 remaining in the TAN to borrow. The County does have a savings account and also could borrow from the Jail and pay back when property taxes start coming in, if necessary.

County Appropriations:

The budget is 60% expended and could be 63%.

The Commissioners noticed that the overtime line is getting high.

County Revenue:

The County revenue received is 70.25%.

Corrections Appropriations:

The Corrections budget is 65% expended at this time of year.

Corrections Revenue:

The Corrections revenue received is 115.38%.

The Community Corrections (CCA) funding has been received in the amount of \$593,837.14. It is broken out this way:

70% is Jail Revenue - \$415,686.00.

30% is CCA Reserve - \$178,151.14.

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to file the Treasurer's Report. Unanimous.**

WARRANTS:

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the August 10, 2017 General Fund Accounts Payable Warrant and August 10, 2017 payroll in the amount of \$182,247.29. Unanimous.**

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the August 10, 2017 Capital Active & Restricted Reserve warrant in the amount of \$24,884.60. Unanimous.**

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the August 10, 2017 Reentry Accounts Payable warrant and August 10, 2017 payroll in the amount of \$53,033.64. Unanimous.**

**** B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the August 10, 2017 MCRRC Restricted Reserve warrant in the amount of \$17,033.28. Unanimous.**

SHERIFF'S REPORT:

Present with the Commissioners was Executive Director of Restorative Justice Project Larrain Brown, and Sheriff Jeffrey Trafton, who reported the following:

1. P/T Victim/Witness Advocate Eric Harvey will be leaving that position and working as P/T Civil Service Deputy on or about September 1, 2017 at the part-time certified rate of \$20.33 per hour.

B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to accept the position change of Eric Harvey from part-time Victim/Witness Advocate to part-time Civil Service Deputy for the Waldo County Sheriff's Office on or about September 1, 2017 at the part-time certified rate of \$20.33 per hour. Unanimous.

2. Both Larrain Brown, Executive Director of Restorative Justice Project, and Sheriff Trafton spoke to the issue of domestic violence disputes. There are a number of cases in which they receive repeated calls to the same residences. J. Trafton said he has often worked with L. Brown because Restorative Justice is able to do mediation in some cases. He noted that the City of Belfast also supports the "Shop Lifter's Initiative" pilot program through Restorative Justice Project. L. Brown explained how that program worked; that all involved with the shop lifter to anyone effected by this act are interviewed and after discussion, it is determined how to make it right, what mentoring is needed, restitution, and a timeline for such. If the offender complies with said "agreement", they are diverted out of the court system. Restorative Justice does more than work with the Reentry Center.

J. Trafton explained that Restorative Justice helps people resolve deep conflicts before they rise to critical levels. He wanted the Commissioners to be aware of this. He further explained that usually funding comes from contracts with the Department of Corrections, schools, grants, and fund-raising.

L. Brown noted that they are not prepared to request funds from the County at this time but may be in the future.

The Commissioners thanked L. Brown for meeting with them.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Nobody from the public came to speak.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Present to report correspondence was County Clerk Barbara Arseneau as follows:

1. Organizing Door Prizes for upcoming MCCA Convention:

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded, to approve five (5) \$50.00 Bank Gift Cards to be taken to the Annual Maine County Commissioners Convention as door prizes. Unanimous.**

2. The Board of Commissioners agreed for the chairman to sign the agreement for Corrections Officers to enroll in MEPers special plan 2C effective July 1, 2017.

3. The Commissioners/Treasurer's Offices shared postage meter contract with Pitney Bowes is about to expire. The new meter will be \$5.00 less per month for a five year lease.

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to approve entering a five-year lease for a new postage meter from Pitney Bowes for the Commissioners/Treasurer's Offices. Unanimous.**

4. Budget Consideration for new Archive Records software: B. Arseneau asked the Commissioners to consider budgeting for research and possible purchase of new software for the County Archive. The current software was shared by the State of Maine back in 2003, and was not new then. It is so old at this point, it may be difficult to move the database of archival records to new software without having to recreate it. Even though the planned archive space in the Old Jail should hopefully be ready in a few years, the software needs to be dealt with now. B. Arseneau mentioned that there was very little funding left in the Records Preservation budget and asked the Commissioners to consider starting to fund again the Records Preservation Operating budget.

B. Johnson stated that she agreed with being proactive, that new software was needed and the current was archaic. B. Arseneau said she had spoken with a person at the Secretary of State's office and that individual had some recommendations. She would like to take a "field trip" to see the State's software and see if it might meet the County's needs. She had been supplied with a few vendors and types of software that the State had gone out to bid with.

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to start at \$5,000.00 in 2040 Records Preservation Operating budget for archive software. Unanimous.**

5. County ID machine's maintenance contract expiring renewal: B. Arseneau informed the Commissioners that the annual renewal of the I.D. making machine was due.

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to renew I.D. Machine maintenance contract. Unanimous.**

6. Tax Abatement Appeal filed by M. Gendron vs Town of Liberty: The attorney representing the Gendrons sent a letter indicating that the matter has been resolved between the Town of Liberty and the Gendrons, so the Gendrons have withdrawn their application for abatement. The Commissioners expressed their pleasure with this resolution and cancelled the tax abatement appeal meeting that was scheduled with County Commissioners on September 27, 2017.

7. There was discussion of whether or not to put the Technology appropriations in the Commissioners' operating budget or continue to fund it from the Technology Reserve. W. Shorey expressed that he thought the Technology budget should stand alone. There was brief discussion regarding whether or not it should be in its own operating budget separate from the Commissioners' budget. B. Arseneau explained that this would require a new template and a new budget number, if that were the decision.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

B. Arseneau requested that the Commissioners approve the minutes from the August 2, 2017 Waldo County Commissioners Court Session as presented.

****B. Johnson moved, W. Shorey seconded to approve the minutes from the August 2, 2017 Waldo County Commissioners Court Session. Unanimous.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION REQUESTED:

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to enter executive session at 9:55 a.m. to discuss personnel matters that have protected health information as permitted by 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(F). Unanimous.**

W. Shorey moved, A. Fowler seconded to come out of executive session at 10:55 a.m. Unanimous.

No action was taken.

COMMISSIONERS MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

No Miscellaneous business needed to be addressed.

2018 BUDGET CAUCUS:

Present with the Commissioners were Searsport Selectman Richard Desmarais, Prospect Selectman Bill Sneed, Winterport Selectman Peter Rioux, Palermo Selectman Cheryl York, Lincolnville Selectman Joshua Gerritsen, Stockton Springs Selectman Peter Curley, and County Treasurer David Parkman.

DISTRICT 1:

Commissioner Johnson explained that J. Gerritsen had been appointed by the Town of Lincolnville to complete the unfinished term of former Selectman Arthur Durity.

There were no nominations for the one open term for District 1.

DISTRICT 2:

****Richard Desmarais nominated Bill Sneed to serve on the open 3-year term in District 2.**

****Peter Rioux nominated himself to serve on the open 3-year term in District 2.**

Nominations ceased. Both names will be placed on the ballot for District 2.

DISTRICT 3:

****Cheryl York nominated herself to serve on the open 3-year term of the Budget Committee in District 3.**

Nominations ceased, so there was no nomination for the vacant one-year term on District 3.

2017 Budget Update:

The Commissioners briefed those present regarding the current 2017 budget. There was discussion of the \$3.5 million allocated to all the County Jails. A. Fowler noted that with the increase allowed, there was additional funds for the first year of the biennial budget. She noted that Waldo County is in good shape and the Reentry is doing well. There are no high-risk residents at the Maine Coastal Regional Reentry Center in Waldo County; these are inmates who are on their way out of their sentence and need to be eased back into society with some skills and training to get along out in civilization. Recidivism is significantly reduced with this program.

A. Fowler also explained that the CCA funding is based on the inmate count. In recent years, CCA funds were reconfigured based on inmates that are sent out from a Jail rather than by the Jails that receive those inmates. She noted that 89% of the residents in the Maine Coastal Regional Reentry Center come from the State. The Flagship jails (the larger facilities) are having a very difficult time due to lack of funds. They had been built to house other counties' inmates with the thought of generating revenue, but that is not happening.

A. Fowler informed those present that the County of Waldo had signed a contract with Two Bridges Jail (Lincoln/Sagadahoc) that is even less costly than the previous contract to hire Waldo's inmates. Any major medical costs related to a Waldo County inmate would be paid in part by the County of Waldo, but otherwise Two Bridges takes care of Waldo County's inmates' needs.

W. Shorey added that the contract that runs to July 2018 is actually less than the one that ran through July 2017. It will go up 3% in July of 2019. W. Shorey also described the County Garden Project and explained the value it serves both the communities' by delivering produce to food cupboards and pantries, but also serves as a way for the residents at the reentry center to give back to the communities and to develop skills that can assist them when they leave the reentry. He noted that the projected amount of produce for this season should be about 100,000 lbs.

The Commissioners then invited those present to join them in the luncheon that had been prepared.

NEXT COMMISSIONERS COURT SESSION:

The next Waldo County Commissioners Court Session will be September 6, 2017 starting at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners Conference Room at 39B Spring Street.

****W. Shorey moved, A. Fowler seconded to adjourn the court session at 11:54 a.m. Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted by *Barbara L. Arseneau*
Waldo County Clerk